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Morphology of Parthenium.—*P. argentatum* has become notable as the "guayule," or desert rubber plant, which is being exploited extensively in Mexico. In connection with its investigation for economic purposes, KIRKWOOD¹⁹ has investigated its life history, and also that of *P. incanum* and *P. hysterothorus*. It appears that in the guayule about 17 per cent of the seeds contain embryos, the numerous failures not being due to failure in fertilization, "but apparently to the cutting off of the nutritive supply in the later stages of development." The structures of the embryo sac, the development of the embryos, and spermatogenesis all seem to conform to the situations usual among Compositae.—J. M. C.

Structure of alpine plants.—A very considerable amount of asymmetry has been found by BLOCH²⁰ in the underground stems of certain alpine plants, notably in the rootstocks of *Anemone baldensis* and *Bartsia alpina*, the latter having a woody cylinder eight times as thick on one side as on the other. Among other peculiarities of these plants, the rootstock of *Geum reptans* is shown to have a cambium layer in the pith, and the older roots of two species of *Campanula* to develop an abnormal amount of lacunar tissue. An explanation of these phenomena will be sought in experimental studies.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Cretaceous conifers of Japan.—JEFFREY²¹ has called attention to the striking resemblance of the cretaceous coniferous flora of Japan, as recently described by STOPES and FUJII, to that of the Atlantic seaboard of North America. The resemblance is perhaps closer than the authors suspected, for JEFFREY claims that their proposed new genus *Yezonia* is in reality his *Brachyphyllum*; and that their *Cryptomeriopsis* is the same as the long-known *Geinitzia*.—J. M. C.

Establishment of the giant cactus.—From measurements of plants of various ages and a careful study of areas near Tucson, Arizona, containing several hundred individuals, SHREVE²² concludes that the giant cactus (*Cereus giganteus*) is not maintaining itself. No sufficient reason for this decadence is yet known. The average expectancy of life for this cactus in the Arizona desert seems to be about 175 years.—GEO. D. FULLER.

¹⁹ KIRKWOOD, J. E., The life history of *Parthenium* (guayule). Amer. Rev. Trop. Agric. 1:193-205. pls. 11-13. 1910.

²⁰ BLOCH, MADAME E., Sur quelques anomalies de structure des plantes alpines. Rev. Gén. Bot. 22:281-290. 1910.

²¹ JEFFREY, EDWARD C., On the affinities of the genus *Yezonia*. Annals of Botany 24:767-773. pl. 65. 1910.

²² SHREVE, FORREST, The rate of establishment of the giant cactus. Plant World 13:235-246. 1910.